

To: "Allen, Kara" [Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov]

From: "Allen, Kara" <Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Fri 9/28/2012 2:13:58 PM

Subject: SEEC Daily Clips 9.28.12

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[Vestas warns of tax hit to turbine makers \(Financial Times\)](#)

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[Oil spill cleanup finished but questions remain \(Channel3000\)](#)

[EPA and Coal: No Longer the 'Bad Guys' in Presidential Contest \(EnergyBiz\)](#)

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Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

September 28, 2012

<http://seec-israel.house.gov/>

Top news stories:

Vestas warns of tax hit to turbine makers (Financial Times)

The US wind turbine market will shrink by up to 95 per cent if a crucial tax credit for wind power is allowed to expire at the end of the year, according to Vestas, the world's largest turbine manufacturer by output.

GDP: Drought knocked 0.2 points off growth in second quarter (Washington Post)

The U.S. economy grew even more slowly than originally thought in the second quarter of 2012, according to new data from the Commerce Department. One culprit? The severe heat and drought that has dented crop production in the Midwest this summer.

Support Slips for More Rules as Gas-Frackers Campaign (Bloomberg)

Public support has cooled for stricter environmental regulation of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, a drilling method that has lowered U.S. energy prices while raising concerns over its impact on drinking water.

Energy news:

In Wake of Drought, Groups Defend Biofuels Mandate (National Journal)

The coalition, which includes the Renewable Fuels Association, Growth Energy, American Council on Renewable Energy, and the Biotechnology Industry Organization, will roll out its "Fuels America" campaign in four states — Colorado, Delaware, Montana, and Ohio — where biofuels development is most prevalent, organizers said.

Tesla charging station: Almost as fast as pumping gas? (+video) (Christian Science Monitor)

Tesla Motors Inc. unveiled a solar-powered charging station that it said will make refueling electric vehicles on long trips about as fast as stopping for gas and a bathroom break in a conventional car.

Uranium Plant Using Laser Technology Wins U.S. Approval (Associated Press)

A nuclear power partnership of General Electric and Hitachi has received federal approval to build the first plant to enrich uranium for use in commercial reactors using a classified laser technology.

Bill would add nuclear relicensing rule (The Hill)

A House bill introduced Wednesday would delay the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) ability to renew licenses for aging nuclear reactors. The NRC would be barred from renewing licenses for reactors with more than 10 years left on their current ones under legislation (H.R. 6554) co-sponsored by Massachusetts Democratic Reps. Edward Markey and John Tierney.

Why the natural gas lobby is wooing the clean power industry (GigaOm)

In recent years, the natural gas industry has successfully positioned itself as the more environmentally friendly form of fossil fuel, mostly because using natural gas to generate electricity produces less greenhouse gas emissions than burning coal.

Natural gas wins place as oil field fuel (Houston Chronicle)

The biggest, baddest engines in the world, long chained to diesel fuel, are on the verge of a mass transformation because of cheap natural gas - with oil field equipment holding particular potential, executives said Thursday during a summit of heavy fuel users and producers.

Jerry Brown OKs bills to expand renewable energy in California (Los Angeles Times)

Gov. Jerry Brown signed 19 bills Thursday aimed at making it easier to provide renewable energy and conserve power in California. The bills include a measure by Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) that directs the state to coordinate implementation of policies advancing energy security with the Department of Defense.

Wind ads in Maine Senate race draw blowback from Angus King (POLITICO)

Independent candidate and former Gov. Angus King had seemed to be a prohibitive favorite in the race to succeed the retiring Republican Olympia Snowe. But his lead has shrunk amid a barrage of conservative attacks, including GOP ads criticizing his involvement with a wind farm that benefited from the same federal program that financed the now-bankrupt solar company Solyndra.

Georgia Power May Buy 210 Megawatts of Solar by 2017 (Businessweek)

Southern Co. (SO), the second-largest U.S. power company by market value, is seeking permission to purchase as much as 210 megawatts of solar power by 2017.

Everything You Need To Know About Where The Candidates Stand On Energy Policy (ThinkProgress)

Clean energy is an important part of the economy of Colorado, which is the location of the first presidential debate on October 3rd.

UK renewable energy output jumps by 42% (Guardian)

The government has today released its latest quarterly energy statistics, confirming that the UK's renewable energy sector is

continuing to expand rapidly, while also fuelling concerns that high gas prices are forcing energy companies to switch to more polluting coal power.

US Eximbank OKs \$5 bln loan for Saudi petrochemical site (Reuters)

The U.S. Export-Import Bank has approved a record-breaking \$4.975 billion direct loan to help build a petrochemical complex in Saudi Arabia, the bank said on Thursday.

Climate news:

Another Week Brings More Pessimistic Drought News (Climate Central)

As has been the case throughout the month of September, the latest weekly drought update shows that drought conditions have tightened their grip on the Plains States and Western U.S., and the overall drought footprint expanded to encompass 65.45 percent of the lower 48 states, up from 64.8 percent on Sept. 18. This represents the highest areal coverage in the 12-year history of the Drought Monitor analysis, topping last week's record.

High Arctic warming surpasses Viking era, study shows (Reuters)

Temperatures high in the Norwegian Arctic are above those in a natural warm period in Viking times, underscoring a thaw opening the region to everything from oil exploration to shipping, scientists said on Thursday.

Oxfam Warns Climate Change And Extreme Weather Will Cause Food Prices To Soar (ThinkProgress)

A report from Oxfam warns that global warming and extreme weather will combine to create devastating food price shocks in the coming decades.

If Obama Wants To Be Re-Elected, He Needs To Break His Climate Silence (ThinkProgress)

ClimateSilence.org chronicles this slow, collective descent toward mute acceptance of global calamity. While many in the media have noted the general trend, this site from Forecast the Facts and Friends of the Earth Action lays out in painstaking detail just how far our national conversation has drifted from where it needs to be.

New Zealand Curbs Gas Emissions as Polluters Use More Renewables (Businessweek)

New Zealand's energy industry reduced its greenhouse gas emissions for the third straight year in 2011 as polluters decreased their reliance on coal and gas in favor of renewable sources.

North India, Himalayas to be worst hit by climate change (Times of India)

Northern parts of the country and the Himalayan region will be the worst hit by climate change in India and warming will be greater over land than sea, according to a latest report.

Japan Introducing Carbon Tax Prompts Backlash From Businesses (Bloomberg)

Japan's biggest business lobbyist attacked plans by the government to introduce a tax on carbon emissions next week, saying it will add billions of yen to industry's energy costs and slow economic growth.

Environment & Health news:

EPA, driller differ on new Pavillion water test results (E&E*)

The major driller in the Pavillion area says USGS's decision to sample only one of the two wells upon which EPA based its conclusions shows serious flaws in EPA's handling of the case.

Great white sharks off West Coast to be considered for endangered listing (Washington Post)

The federal government will examine whether to protect the West Coast population of great white sharks under the Endangered Species Act, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Thursday.

Ocean Expedition Uncovers a Million New Species (TreeHugger)

After centuries of scientific study across the Earth's numerous vast and varied ecosystems, it might seem that there would be little left to discover in terms of biological diversity -- but, as a recent expedition studying life in the world's oceans proves, we may have only really scratched the surface.

BP pays \$210,000 after failing EPA test (Fuel Fix)

BP Products North America will pay \$210,000 and create enhanced oil spill response programs at all of its U.S. oil facilities under

the terms of a consent agreement announced Thursday.

Scientists say BP used courts to attack oil spill research (Los Angeles Times)

Scientists are accusing the BP oil company of using the U.S. courts to attack their calculations of how much oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico during the Deepwater Horizon drilling disaster.

Oil spill cleanup finished but questions remain (Channel3000)

The July pipeline oil spill in Adams County has been cleaned up, but questions remain about whether the pipeline company's inspections are enough to prevent future spills.

EPA and Coal: No Longer the 'Bad Guys' in Presidential Contest (EnergyBiz)

With the presidential campaign headed down the final stretch, it is expected that the two main candidates will slow up. What? While their slugfest will remain in high gear, their highly toxic rhetoric will begin to ease as they seek to woo the independent and moderate voters.

* indicates subscription required

These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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